Amendments in Finalised Version of GATT Treaty

4325. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amendments has been done at Morocco on GATT Treaty in its finalised version in December, 1993 and if so, details thereof ;

;b) the countries that supported and opposed USA on the issue of social and labour standards at GATT;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation made by US trade official and reported in 'Observer" of 7th April, 1994 that under the rules of the GATT, objection by even one country is enough to block discussion on any issue or any fresh issue and if so, details thereof; and

(d) what are the detailed positive and negative aspects in terms of benefits or losses to India due to GATT?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The major countries pleading for the inclusion of the consideration of the relationship between international trade and internationally recognized workers rights were the U.S., the EC and the Nordic countries. Almost all developing countries and Canada were not in favour of this subject being considered by the WTO.

(c) The Ministerial decision establishing the Preparatory Committee lays down that all decisions of the Prep. Com. will be on the basis of consensus.

(d) The Uruguay Round results will establish a rule-based multilateral trading system with expanded coverage. This will on the whole be advantageous to us in increasing our exports. There will be increased market access opportunities for Indian goods as a result of lowering of tariffs and the phase out of the Multi Fibre Arrangement. The Services Agree ment would also provide export opportu nities. The rules governing the multi lateral trading system have been strengthened. Though we will be required to amend our patents regime, there are safeguards in the Agreement against the abuse of patent rights by the right holder. The use of price control measures is also not prohibited. We have flexibility to devise our own sui generis system of plant variety protection with provisions for farmers and researchers rights. In the area of agriculture, our development and public welfare policies will not be constrained.

वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान आयात और निर्यात

4326. श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल : क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान कितनी धन राशि का आयात किया गया; और

(ख) उक्त अवधि के दौरान कितनी धन राशि का निर्यात किया गया ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) और (ख) अप्रैल-फरवरी, 1993-94, वह आद्यनिकतम अवधि जिसके आंकड़े उपलब्ध है, के दौरान भारत के आयात और निर्यातों का मूल्य निम्नलिखित है :—

	करोड़ रुपए	मिलियन अमरीकी डालर
आयात (अनन्तिम)	63780.43	20335.03
निर्यात (अनन्तिम)	62181.31	19825.19

कोयले का आयात

4327. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :
श्री दिग्विजय सिंह :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार विदेशों से कोयले का आयात कर रही है अथवा करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किस-किस देशों से कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में तथा किस प्रकार के कोयले का आयात किया जा रहा है और उस पर कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय होने की संभावना है;

(ग) क्या विदेशों से कोयला आयात करने का निर्णय किसी दबाव के तहत लिया गया है और क्या